

Application number 10/621,413
Response to office action mailed Aug 09, 2006

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The Examiner is thanked for the detailed comments. While the Applicants have carefully reviewed the Examiner's rejections, they respectfully request the Examiner's further consideration of the reasons set out below:

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 102(e)

Claims 1-13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,959,149 to Bragg et al.

The Present Application

The present application provides a novel method and system for powering up an optical network remotely and safely by incrementally increasing power to optical links in the optical network while monitoring signal levels in the network. In a modification to the method, the procedure for powering up the network also includes the general step of setting attenuation and gain values. The method for setting these values is not specified in the invention, and exemplary references are provided to other patent applications that specify such methods. Thus, the present invention does not set optimized network device parameters, but rather provides for network devices to be safely brought to an operating level that is detectable.

The Bragg Reference

Bragg's invention discloses an automatic method of balancing power levels in DWDM optical networks to optimize optical signal to noise ratio (OSNR). This is done by adjusting the transmitted optical power on individual wavelengths and the mean optical power using variable optical attenuators (VOAs). The advantage in this patent is that it is cost efficient due to its simplicity as compared with methods employing power control with VOAs on individual wavelengths. Applicant notes that nothing is suggested or contemplated in the Bragg reference regarding a method or system for powering up the optical network. In fact, Bragg's invention could be one implementation of the step in the proposed invention of "setting attenuation of attenuators and gain settings of amplifiers" as disclosed in claim 5.

Application number 10/621,413
Response to office action mailed Aug 09, 2006

Regarding claims 1 and 12, Bragg does not disclose a method for powering up an optical network. Bragg discloses a method of balancing power levels in an optical network. It does not comprise a step of (c) "gradually increasing optical power ... until the optical signal is detected", and (d) "verifying if the detected optical signal is being detected at a correct location" of the present invention.

Regarding claim 3, the present invention discloses continuously and "gradually increasing optical power ... until the optical signal is detected at the monitoring point" whereas Bragg's invention comprises setting "the power to the design value, and thereby compensate for different span or mid-stage losses".

Regarding claim 4, the present invention discloses "gradually increasing optical power" by "decreasing attenuation of attenuators ... until the optical signal is detected at the monitoring point" whereas Bragg's invention "uses a Variable Optical Attenuator (VOA) at the amplifier input to set the power to the design value".

Regarding claim 5, the present invention includes "the step of setting attenuation of attenuators and gain settings of amplifiers", for which Bragg's invention is one possible implementation of this step.

Regarding claims 6 and 13, the invention discloses "gradually increasing optical power in steps provided by sets of precalculated link budgets" whereas Bragg's invention comprises setting "the power into a constant gain amplifier to its nominal level".

Regarding claim 7, Bragg's invention does not disclose detecting optical signals by detecting a dither tone.

Regarding claim 8, Bragg's invention does not disclose reconnected sections of optical links according to network specifications.

Conclusion

No new matter has been added.

As discussed above, the invention is not anticipated by Bragg, therefore the examiner's rejections under 35 USC 102 have been overcome.

Application number 10/621,413
Response to office action mailed Aug 09, 2006

In view of the foregoing, a favorable consideration of the application is courteously requested.

Respectfully submitted,
Ng, et al



Victoria Donnelly
Registration No. 44,185
Tropic Networks Incorporated
Intellectual Property Department
135 Michael Cowpland Drive,
Kanata Ontario, Canada K2M 2E9
Telephone: (613) 270-6026
Facsimile: (613) 270-9663